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## Editorial Notes and Comment

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**D**ANGERS of many kinds are before the American people. Two of those which loom up large and threatening are the love of money and the love of pleasure. It is interesting to see what the Wall Street Journal has to say on this subject, and it should be remembered that this paper is published especially for the moneyed people of the country. It says:

"What America needs more than railway extension, and western irrigation, and low tariff, and a bigger wheat crop, and a merchant marine, and a new navy, is a revival of piety, the kind mother and father used to have, piety that counted it good business to stop for daily family prayer before breakfast, right in the middle of harvest; that quit field work a half hour early Thursday night, so as to get the chores done and go to prayer meeting; that borrowed money to pay the preacher's salary, and prayed fervently in secret for the salvation of the rich man who looked with scorn on such unbusiness-like behavior. That's what we need now to clean this country of the filth of graft, and of greed, petty and big; of worship of fine houses and big lands and high office and grand social functions. What is this thing we are worshipping but a vain repetition of what decayed nations fell down and worshipped just before their lights went out? Read the history of Rome in decay and you will find luxury there that could lay a big dollar over our little doughnut that looks so large to us. Great wealth never made a nation substantial nor honorable. There is nothing on earth that looks good that is so dangerous for a man or a nation to handle as quick, easy, big money. If you do resist its deadly influence, the chances are that it will get your son."

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**P**ROHIBITION is rapidly sweeping over this country and is gaining ground in many parts of the world. One reason why it has not spread more rapidly, and why it has not been more successfully enforced has been that no substitute has been provided for the saloon. Man is naturally a social being, and one of the secrets of the great power the saloon has had lies in the fact that it has provided something to satisfy the demands of his social nature. One of the greatest problems before the Church and the philanthropists of to-day is to provide this substitute. It must afford innocent pleasure and recreation, which may, at a moderate cost, be enjoyed with neighbors and friends. He who will devise such a scheme will render to his fellowmen, to the community, to the country, to the Church and to God, a service, the value of which can never be estimated. The conditions vary so greatly in different communities, that no plan will probably suit everywhere. Let each community

take up the matter for itself and see what can be done. Then pass on to others any experience that may be gained. It is a big problem, but Americans love big problems.

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**R**ELIGION in the public schools and their relation to each other is one of the problems that occupies the thought and attention of many wise men to-day. It is felt that the youth of the land are not getting the moral and religious training that they ought to have. The State through the public schools come in touch with more of these young people than any other institution. So many feel that, while the State is training the brain, some attention should be given to the heart also. In order that the boy may become a first-class citizen, he must have both head and heart educated. The heart cannot be trained without religion. Is it not the part of the Church rather than of the State, to furnish religious training? Suppose the whole Christian Church of this country were doing all that it possibly could to train all the people, young and old, in the vital truths of religion, there is no reason why everyone in all this land should not be reached. And if this should be done, there would be no need to turn this duty over to the State, which cannot do it half so well. The serious question for the Church to consider is, whether it will do its duty or shirk it and try to turn it over to the State.

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**A**MERICA'S responsibility is greater in one respect at least than that of any other nation. An old German father, who has several grown sons, said a few days ago that he had tried very hard to raise his boys in this country with German ideas, but they were so influenced by Americans all around them that they had grown up with American ideas. He said that he thought there is a great deal of good in Americanism, but that there is also much that is bad. When we think of the millions of foreigners that have come and are coming to our shores, do we realize that they are going to be what we Americans make them? They may have some influence on us, but little compared with the influence we have on them. The question which we ought to consider most seriously is, what kind of influence is being exerted upon them? The powers of evil are at work everywhere, and the stranger is an easy victim. Has the Church ever waked up to its responsibility to these strangers at our doors? Very few of them are being reached with the gospel. If they could be given a Christian welcome and have the influences of religion thrown around them as soon as they come upon our shores, the agents of evil would not gain such influence over them and they would make far better American citizens.

**P**ROGRESS is sometimes a little uncomfortable in its effects. It has proven true in our case. For a year and a half our office has been in the Park Building. The owners consider that building somewhat out of date, and have decided to pull it down and erect a more modern one on its site. The result has been that we had to move out, much against our preference. But we were very fortunate in being able to secure the same offices from which we moved a year and a half ago. We are now again located in Rooms 307 and 308 Old Dominion Trust Building, at the corner of Ninth and Main Streets. We shall be glad to have our friends call to see us at any time. The elevator entrance is on the Ninth Street side of the building.

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**C**HRISTMAS has come and gone, but the spirit of Christmas need not take its flight with the passing of the day. This spirit is that of good will shown to others in deeds of kindness. Why may this not be done every day in the year, and many times in the day? The Boy Scouts are taught that they are to "do a good turn every day." Let us all in this respect be Scouts, and great will be the blessing, both to others and to ourselves.

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**P**EACE among the nations will probably come some time during the year. Just when or upon what terms no one can now say. But every Christian should be very earnest and fervent in prayer that the war may be brought to an end in God's own time and under such conditions as He will approve. And let the prayer go up from every heart that this may be the last war ever fought on earth, except that between the forces of righteousness and evil, in which all of God's people shall be as loyally enlisted under the banner of King Jesus, as the brave soldiers have been enlisted under the banners of their countries and their kings. Then it will not be long before the Prince of Peace will reign in every heart and in every land, and the powers of evil will be entirely overthrown.

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**L**EADERS among the foreign country, who are anxious to have their countrymen to a higher plane of character, say that the most serious in their way is the saloon. The influence of the saloon goes almost everywhere he goes. In the large cities, in which most of the population congregates, the saloon opens its door. In a section of Gary, 3,000 Croats, and among 27 Croatian saloons, or a hundred of the population, it is not surprising that the foreigners prove themselves to be poverty-stricken.